

PUBLIC NOTICE

AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FY 2007 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

As set forth in 24CFR Part 91, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires state agencies which administer certain HUD programs to incorporate their planning and application requirements into one master plan called the Consolidated Plan. In Louisiana, the four state agencies participating in this consolidated planning process and the HUD funded program(s) administered by each agency include the Division of Administration/Office of Community Development (Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program), the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (HOME Investment Partnerships Program and American Dream Downpayment Initiative [ADDI] Program), the Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services (Emergency Shelter Grants Program), and the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Program (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program).

A consolidated plan was prepared in 2005 which outlined the State's overall housing and community development needs and a strategy for meeting those needs for federal fiscal years 2005-2009 and included a one year action plan for the distribution of FY 2005 federal funds which would be received for the aforementioned HUD programs. An annual update or action plan for the distribution of funds will be prepared and publicized for each of the subsequent four program years.

The proposed FY 2007 Consolidated Annual Action Plan which identifies the proposed method of distribution for FY 2007 funds received for the HUD programs will be available for review beginning October 25, 2006, at the Office of Community Development, Claiborne Building, Suite 7-270, 1201 North Third Street in Baton Rouge. Copies of these documents will also be available for review at the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency at 2415 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge, at the Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services at 627 N. Fourth Street, 200-19, in Baton Rouge, and at the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Program on the 11th floor at 1010 Common Street in New Orleans.

A limited number of the proposed plans will be available for distribution and may be requested in writing or by telephone from any of the four agencies participating in the consolidated planning process. The proposed plan will also be available for viewing and copying on the internet (www.doa.state.la.us/cdbg/cdbg.htm) on or before October 25, 2006.

The following presents a summary of the proposed FY 2007 Consolidated Annual Action Plan.

The State was allocated \$29,334,827 in FY 2006 Community Development Block Grant funds. The amount that will be available for Louisiana in FY 2007 funds has not yet been announced; however, it is expected that the allocation for FY 2007 will be similar to that received in FY 2006. The Office of Community Development is proposing to establish the following five program areas for the distribution of these funds: (1) Housing - \$2.4 million will be set aside to provide safe and sanitary living conditions through housing rehabilitation or reconstructed housing for low/moderate income persons. (2) Public Facilities – approximately \$18.5 million will be allocated for water and wastewater systems, streets, and multi-purpose community centers. (3) Economic Development - \$5 million will be allocated to provide loans to businesses for job creation or retention projects and/or to provide grants to local governing bodies for infrastructure improvements which will facilitate the location of a particular business. (4) Demonstrated Needs - \$2 million will be set aside to alleviate critical/urgent needs involving improvements to existing water, wastewater, and gas systems. (5) LaSTEP - \$500,000 will be set aside to fund one or more water and/or wastewater projects which may utilize LCDBG funds for materials, engineering, and administrative costs in conjunction with local resources (human, material, and/or financial.) In accordance with HUD guidelines, the remainder of the LCDBG funds will be utilized for the State's cost of providing program administration and technical assistance services.

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, as the administrator of the State's HOME Program, expects to receive an estimated allocation of \$14,787,939 and ADDI funds of \$183,362 in FY 2007 funds. These funds are intended for use in support of the following affordable housing categories: (1) \$3,000,000 (or fifteen percent of the HOME project allocation) will be set aside for the exclusive use of state designated community housing development organizations in developing home ownership and rental housing; (2) \$4,100,000 along with \$1,065,841 of ADDI funds will be reserved to provide mortgage financing, down payment and closing cost assistance for first time home buyers. These funds are to be used in combination with state mortgage revenue bonds which provide below market rate mortgage financing; (3) \$3,000,000 will be available for primary or secondary financing to for-profit and non-profit developers of multi-family rental housing in HOME non-entitlement areas; (4) \$2,326,666 will be available for funding the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program to provide monies for the rehabilitation of substandard housing owned and occupied by low income families. The balance of the grant is to be used by the Agency in support of the administration of the various HOME eligible activities

The State's estimated federal allocation for the FY 2007 Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP) is \$1,552,031. ESGP funding is dedicated for the rehabilitation, renovation, or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless, for payment of certain operating costs and social services expenses in connection with emergency shelter for the homeless and for homeless prevention services. The Louisiana Department of Social Services, administrative agency for the Emergency Shelter Grants Program, proposes to distribute the State's funding allocation to eligible units of general local government which may make all or part of the grant amounts available to private non-profit organizations for use in eligible activities. Eligible applicants are defined as governmental bodies for all parish jurisdictions and those city jurisdictions with a minimum population of 10,000. The Department of Social Services shall continue use of a geographic allocation formula (based on factors for low income population) to ensure that each region of the State is allotted a specified minimum of Emergency

Shelter Grant assistance. Within each region, grant distribution will be conducted through a competitive grant award process. Among other evaluation criteria, this selection process will consider the extent to which proposed activities will address local needs to “complete the development of a comprehensive system of services which will provide a continuum of care to assist homeless persons to achieve independent living.”

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Office of Public Health (OPH), HIV/AIDS Program (HAP) proposes to allocate the FY 2007 Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds through a funding split between community based organizations providing short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance and tenant-based rental assistance, and residential facilities providing on-site housing and housing services. Each year the State receives housing assistance funds through HOPWA to be disbursed in Regions III through IX. Funding for Regions I and II, the greater New Orleans and Baton Rouge metro areas, is administered through separate grants awarded directly to the municipalities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

Currently there are seven community based organizations (CBOs) throughout the State that provide short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance and/or tenant-based rental assistance to low income persons living with HIV/AIDS. These funds are specifically utilized to prevent homelessness or to provide homeless individuals with a safe transitional housing option. Approximately sixty-five percent of the total FY 2007 HOPWA award will be allocated to the agencies that score highly on applications submitted in response to the Ryan White Title II Solicitation of Proposals released by the HIV/AIDS Program in December, 2006. These grant funds will be disbursed to Regions II through IX.

The other source of assistance available through HOPWA is the funds allocated to the regional residential facilities. The HIV/AIDS Program currently funds residential facilities in five of the seven funded regions (regions VI and IX do not have such facilities) and those five sites will receive approximately thirty-five percent of the FY 2007 HOPWA allocation. Although these facilities are sole source providers of this service, these funds will be allocated through a competitive statewide HIV/AIDS Solicitation of Application for Facility-Based Housing. These HOPWA funds will be designated for renovation, rehabilitation, acquisition, conversion, lease and repair of facilities, or for the purchase of capital equipment.

Written comments on the proposed consolidated annual action plan may be submitted beginning October 25, 2006, and must be received no later than November 27, 2006. Comments may be mailed to the Office of Community Development, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095, sent via facsimile to 225-342-1947, or emailed to dotty.tapscott@la.gov